Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method of routing a flow of frames for a core-edge switch configuration, the core-edge switch configuration configured to receive frames at an edge switch, route them to a core switch and then route them to an edge switch for transmission, the method comprising:

receiving at least one frame of said the flow of frames at an edge switch of said the core-edge switch configuration;

applying a process at one switch in the core-edge switch configuration to select a route through at least two switches forming the core-edge switch configuration from said edge switch to a core switch for said at least one frame of said the flow of frames so as to balance potentially reduce frame traffic through congestion in said the core-edge switch configuration; and

transmitting said at least one frame from an edge switch of the core-edge switch configuration.

2. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein said process comprises a pseudo-random process.

3. (Original)   The method of claim 2, wherein applying said pseudo-random process comprises applying a hash function.

4.-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 3, wherein said hash function is also applied to possible routes through said the core-edge switch configuration to

balance the flow of frames through ~~said~~ the core-edge switch configuration to an ~~particular~~ external exit port of ~~said~~ the core-edge switch configuration.

7.-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein said process comprises applying ~~a~~ weights ~~is respectively assigned to at least some respective ones of said exit ports of said configuration;~~

~~and further comprising: applying a process to select a route for a frame of said flow of frames so as to potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in said core- edge switch configuration by employing the weights to select an exit port of said configuration that is as good as or better than alternative exit ports in terms of achieving an objective reflected by said weights~~.

20. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 19, wherein said weights are applied to possible routes through the core-edge switch ~~exit ports of said~~ configuration ~~comprise exit ports of edge switches of said~~ to balance the flow of frames through the core-edge switch configuration to an external port of the core-edge switch configuration.

21.-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein said route is selected based at least in part on a source tag and/or a destination tag added to said frame after said frame enters a switch of ~~said~~ the core-edge switch configuration.

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30. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 29, wherein said source tag and/or said destination tag is stripped off said frame before said frame exits ~~said~~ the core-edge switch configuration.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said switches of said configuration comprise ~~fibre Fibre~~ ~~channel~~ Channel compliant switches.

33. (Currently Amended) A switch fabric comprising:

at least a first switch and a second switch, said first and said second switch being communicatively coupled;

said first switch including:

~~a processor and memory;~~

at least two core switches;

at least two edge switches coupled to said at least two core switches so that a flow of frames is from an edge switch to a core switch to an edge switch to develop a core-edge switch configuration; and

routing logic associated with a switch which ~~said first switch being~~ ~~adapted to~~ selects a route through at least two switches forming said core-edge switch configuration for a frame of said flow of frames ~~from an edge switch to a core switch so~~ ~~as to~~ balance the ~~potentially reduce~~ frame traffic ~~congestion in a~~ through said core-edge switch configuration.

34. (Currently Amended) The switch fabric of claim 33, wherein said ~~first~~ ~~switch is adapted to~~ routing logic pseudo-randomly selects a route for ~~a~~ said frame of said flow of frames ~~so as to potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in said core-edge~~ ~~switch configuration~~.

35. (Currently Amended) The switch fabric of claim 34, wherein said ~~first~~ ~~switch~~ routing logic ~~is adapted to~~ pseudo-randomly selects ~~a~~ said route by applying a hash function.

36.-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended)   The switch fabric of claim 35, wherein said ~~first switch~~ routing logic ~~is also adapted to apply~~ applies said hash function to possible routes through said core-edge switch configuration to balance the flow of frames through said core-edge switch configuration to an ~~particular~~ external exit port of said core-edge switch configuration.

39.-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Currently Amended)   The switch fabric of claim 33, wherein said routing logic applies weights to select said route ~~a weight is respectively assigned to at least some respective ones of said exit ports of said configuration;~~
        ~~wherein said first switch is further adapted to select a route for a frame of said flow frames so as to potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in said core- edge switch configuration by employing the weights to select an exit port of said configuration that is as good as or better than alternative exit ports in terms of achieving an objective reflected by said weights.~~

52. (Currently Amended)   The switch fabric of claim 51, wherein said weights are applied to possible routes through ~~exit ports of~~ said core-edge switch configuration to balance the flow of frames through said core-edge switch ~~comprise exit ports of edge switches of said~~ configuration to an external port of said core-edge switch configuration.

53.-60. (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended)   The switch fabric of claim 33, wherein said ~~first switch~~ routing logic ~~is adapted to~~ selects said route based at least in part on a source tag and/or a destination tag added to said frame after said frame enters a switch of said core-edge switch configuration.

62. (Currently Amended)   The switch fabric of claim 61, wherein ~~said first~~ one of said core or edge switch<u>es</u> ~~is adapted to~~ strip<u>s</u> said source tag and/or said destination tag off said frame before said frame exits said ~~first~~ core-edge switch <u>configuration</u>.

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Currently Amended)   The switch fabric of claim 33, wherein said first <u>and second</u> switch<u>es</u> comprise<u>s</u> a <u>F</u>~~f~~ibre <u>C</u>~~c~~hannel compliant switch<u>es</u>.

65. (Currently Amended)   An apparatus comprising:

a switch, said switch including<u>:</u>

~~a processor and memory;~~

    <u>at least two core switches;</u>

    <u>at least two edge switches coupled to said at least two core switches so that a flow of frames is from an edge switch to a core switch to an edge switch to develop a core-edge switch configuration; and</u>

    <u>routing logic associated with a switch which</u> ~~said switch further having the capability to balance a flow of frames exiting said switch;~~

~~said switch being adapted to~~ select<u>s</u> a route <u>through at least two switches forming said core-edge switch configuration</u> for a frame of said flow of frames ~~from an edge switch to a core switch so as~~ to balance ~~potentially reduce~~ frame traffic ~~congestion in a~~ <u>through said</u> core-edge switch configuration.

66. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim 65, wherein said ~~switch is adapted to~~ <u>routing logic</u> pseudo-randomly select<u>s</u> a route for a<u>said</u> frame of said flow of ~~frames so as to potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in said core- edge switch configuration~~.

67. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim 66, wherein said ~~switch is adapted to~~ <u>routing logic</u> pseudo-randomly select<u>s</u> a<u>said</u> route by applying a hash function.

68.-69. (Cancelled)

70. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim 67, wherein said ~~switch is also adapted to~~ routing logic ~~apply~~ applies said hash function to possible routes through said core-edge switch configuration to balance the flow of frames through said core-edge switch configuration to an ~~particular~~ external exit port of said core-edge switch configuration.

71.-82. (Cancelled)

83. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim 65, wherein said routing logic applies weights to select said route ~~a weight is respectively assigned to at least some respective ones of said exit ports of said configuration;~~

~~wherein said switch is further adapted to select a route for a frame of said flow of frames so as to potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in said core- edge switch configuration by employing the weights to select an exit port of said configuration that is as good as or better than alternative exit ports in terms of achieving an objective reflected by said weights.~~

84. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim 83, wherein said weights are applied to possible routes through ~~exit ports of~~ said core-edge switch configuration to balance the flow of frames through said core-edge switch ~~comprise exit ports of edge switches of said~~ configuration to an external port of said core-edge switch configuration.

85.-92. (Cancelled)

93. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim 65, wherein said ~~switch is adapted to~~ routing logic selects said route based at least in part on a source tag and/or a

destination tag added to said frame after said frame enters a switch of said core-edge switch configuration.

94. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim 93, wherein ~~one of said core or edge~~ said switch~~es~~ ~~is adapted to~~ strips said source tag and/or said destination tag off said frame before said frame exits said ~~core-edge~~ switch configuration.

95. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim 65, wherein said switch comprises a ~~fibre~~ Fibre ~~channel~~ Channel compliant switch.

96. (Cancelled)

97. (Currently Amended)   A network comprising:
a host;
a physical storage unit; and
a first switch ~~and a second switch communicatively coupled to form a switch fabric;~~

~~said first switch and said second switch further~~ communicatively coupled to said host and said physical storage unit;
said first switch ~~at least~~ including: ~~a processor and memory;~~
at least two core switches;
at least two edge switches coupled to said at least two core switches so that a flow of frames is from an edge switch to a core switch to an edge switch to develop a core-edge switch configuration; and
routing logic associated with a switch which ~~said first switch being adapted to~~ selects a route through at least two switches forming said core-edge switch configuration for a frame of said flow of frames ~~from an edge switch to a core switch so as to~~ balance ~~potentially reduce~~ frame traffic ~~congestion in a~~ through said core-edge switch configuration.

98. (Currently Amended)   The network of claim 97, wherein said ~~first switch~~ ~~is adapted to~~ routing logic pseudo-randomly selects ~~a~~said route for said~~a~~ frame of said flow of frames ~~so as to potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in said core- edge~~ ~~switch configuration~~.

99. (Currently Amended)   The network of claim 98, wherein said ~~first switch~~ ~~is adapted to~~ routing logic pseudo-randomly selects ~~a~~said route by applying a hash function.

100.-101. (Cancelled)

102. (Currently Amended)   The network of claim 99, wherein said ~~first switch~~ ~~is also adapted to~~routing logic appl~~yies~~ said hash function to possible routes through said core-edge switch configuration to balance the flow of frames through said core-edge switch configuration to an ~~particular~~external exit port of said core-edge switch configuration.

103.-113. (Cancelled)

114. (Currently Amended)   The network of claim 97, wherein said routing logic applies weights to select said route~~a weight is respectively assigned to at least some~~ ~~respective ones of said exit ports of said configuration;~~
        ~~wherein said first switch is further adapted to select a route for a frame of~~ ~~said flow of frames so as to potentially reduce frame traffic congestion in said core- edge~~ ~~switch configuration by employing the weights to select an exit port of said configuration~~ ~~that is as good as or better than alternative exit ports in terms of achieving an objective~~ ~~reflected by said weights~~.

115. (Currently Amended)   The network of claim 114, wherein said weights are applied to possible routes through ~~exit ports of~~ said core-edge switch configuration to

balance the flow of frames through said core-edge switch ~~comprise exit ports of edge~~ ~~switches of said~~ configuration to an external port of said core-edge switch configuration.

116.-123. (Cancelled)

124. (Currently Amended)   The network of claim 97, wherein said ~~first switch~~ ~~is adapted to~~ routing logic selects said route based at least in part on a source tag and/or a destination tag added to said frame after said frame enters a switch of said core-edge switch configuration.

125. (Currently Amended)   The network of claim 97, wherein one of said core or edge ~~said first~~ switches ~~is adapted to~~ strips said source tag and/or said destination tag off said frame before said frame exits said ~~first~~ core-edge switch configuration.

126.-157. (Cancelled)